

## Claims

- [c1] 1. A method, comprising:  
searching configuration data for an entry for a device with an unknown type; and  
removing the entry for the device with the unknown type from the configuration data.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
determining a vendor of the device with the unknown type;  
searching subkeys in the configuration data for all devices associated with the vendor; and  
deleting keys associated with the devices associated with the vendor.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
modifying an initialization file to remove device information.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
deleting files identified in a file list.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the deleting element further comprises:  
saving a backup copy of the files prior to deletion.
- [c6] 6. A method, comprising:  
searching a registry for a USB (Universal Serial Bus) printer with an unknown description; and  
removing an entry for the printer with the unknown description from the registry.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:  
determining a vendor of the printer;  
searching subkeys in the registry for all printers associated with the vendor; and  
deleting keys for all the printers associated with the vendor.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 6, further comprising:  
clearing load, run, and device lines from an initialization file.
- [c9] 9. The method of claim 6, further comprising:  
removing a devices section and a printerports sections from an initialization file.
- [c10] 10. A signal-bearing medium comprising instructions, wherein the instructions

when executed comprise:

deleting entries in a configuration file for all devices with an unknown description;

scanning subkeys in the configuration file for a device entry associated with a selected vendor; and

removing keys from the configuration file, wherein the keys are associated with the device entry.

- [c11] 11. The signal-bearing medium of claim 10, wherein the instructions further comprise:  
removing references associated with the device from an initialization file.
- [c12] 12. The signal-bearing medium of claim 10, wherein the instructions further comprise:  
deleting files identified in a file list.
- [c13] 13. A computer, comprising:  
a processor; and  
storage comprising instructions executable on the processor, wherein the instructions when executed comprise:  
detecting devices attached to the computer,  
identifying the attached devices as unknown when drivers for the attached devices are not present,  
installing device drivers, and  
deleting entries in a configuration file for all devices with an unknown description.
- [c14] 14. The computer of claim 13, wherein the instructions further comprise:  
scanning subkeys in the configuration file for a device entry associated with a selected vendor.
- [c15] 15. The computer of claim 14, wherein the instructions further comprise:  
removing keys from the configuration file, wherein the keys are associated with the device entry.
- [c16] 16. The computer of claim 13, wherein the instructions further comprise:  
modifying an initialization file to remove information associated with the device.
- [c17] 17. An apparatus, comprising:

means for removing a registry key associated with a predetermined device of a computer system; and  
means for modifying a configuration file to indicate removal of the predetermined device from the computer system,  
wherein the predetermined device is removed from the computer system so as to not interfere with a subsequent device installation.

[c18] 18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said removing means includes means for removing registry keys according to a vendor of the predetermined device.

[c19] 19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said removing means removing at least one registry key selected from a list of registry keys consisting of:  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\enum\device bus\  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device  
function\Environments\Windows 4.0\Drivers  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\currentcontrolset\control\device  
function\monitors  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\Ports  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\device  
type  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Config\0001\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device  
function\device type  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\Class,  
where device bus indicates a type of bus the predetermined device uses to couple to the computer system, device function indicates a function the predetermined devices provides, and device type indicates a group classification of the predetermined device.

[c20] 20. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said modifying means modifying the configuration file, wherein the configuration file is selected from a list consisting of: win.ini, windows.inf, windows\system, and windows\system32.

[c21] 21. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said removing means removing at least one registry key, wherein the at least one register key is selected from a list of registry keys consisting of:

HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\enum\device bus\  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device  
function\Environments\Windows 4.0\Drivers  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\currentcontrolset\control\device  
function\monitors  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\Ports  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device function\device  
type  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Config\0001\System\CurrentControlSet\Control\device  
function\device type  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\Class,  
where the device bus indicates a type of bus the predetermined device uses to  
couple to the computer system, the device function indicates a function the  
predetermined devices provides, and the device type indicates a group  
classification of the predetermined device, and the modifying means modifying at  
least one of the following configuration files: win.ini, windows.inf,  
windows\system, and windows\system32.

[c22] 22. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, the modifying means modifying a win.ini  
file by clearing at least one or more of following lines in the win.ini file associated  
with the predetermined device: load=, run=, device= lines, and at least one or  
more of the following sections of the win.ini file: devices and deviceports sections.

[c23] 23. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said removing means being configured by  
one or more of the following: software stored on an information storage medium  
and loaded onto the computer system, software downloaded onto the computer  
system via a network, and software instructions executed by a remote machine  
coupled to the computer system via a network.

[c24] 24. An apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said modifying means being configured  
by one or more of the following: software stored on an information storage  
medium and loaded onto the computer system, software downloaded onto the  
computer system via a network, and software instructions executed by a remote  
machine coupled to the computer system via a network

[c25] 25. An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, the removing means being configured by

one or more of the following: software stored on an information storage medium and loaded onto the computer system, software downloaded onto the computer system via a network, and software instructions executed by a remote machine coupled to the computer system via a network.

[c26] 26. An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, said modifying means being configured by one or more of the following: software stored on an information storage medium and loaded onto the computer system, software downloaded onto the computer system via a network, and software instructions executed by a remote machine coupled to the computer system via a network

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